

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00778 150553Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 150415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4158

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EXDIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER AND HABIB ONLY FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN FJ

SUBJECT: OPERATION CLEAN SLATE

REF: STATE 145958

1. REGRET DELAYED RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, RECEIVED BY POUCH JULY 14.
2. SUVA WAS CONSULATE FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE ELEVATION TO EMBASSY STATUS. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SLOW IN RECOGNIZING CHANGE WITH RESULT THAT IN MANY WAYS POST IS STILL TREATED AS SMALL CONSULATE BUT EXPECTED TO ACT LIKE EMBASSY TO MEET INCREASING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS FIJI AND AREA SERVED BY SUVA BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

3. IF WE COULD START FROM SCRATCH, I WOULD RECOMMEND:

A. STAFFING:

1. THAT AMBASSADOR TO FIJI BE RESIDENT IN SUVA AND DUALY ACCREDITED TO TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. IN EFFECT, REGIONAL EMBASSY TO OCEANIA. POST WOULD BE IDEAL FOR ASSIGNMENT OF AMBASSADOR AT O-3 LEVEL.

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2. THAT AMERICAN STAFF BE INCREASED BY ASSIGNMENT OF MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICER WHO COULD BE DCM/POL (AND OVERSEE ADMIN) AND COMMUNICATOR. LATTER WOULD ENTAIL UPGRADING OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO GIVE POST MORE ADVANCED CRYPTO CAPABILITY THAN PRESENT MANUAL SYSTEM.

3. ASSIGNMENT OF ABOVE WOULD REQUIRE ADJUSTMENTS IN LOCAL STAFF. IN ANY CASE EMBASSY'S WORK LOAD IS INCREASING AND LOCAL STAFF WILL NEED TO BE INCREASED IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. I HAVE CONSISTENTLY RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT BY USIA OF REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICER BASED IN SUVA.

5. VERSATILITY IN OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO SUVA VITAL.

B. HOUSING:

USG OWNS CHOICE BUILDING SITE BUT IT REMAINS UNDEVELOPED. MEDIUM- SIZED RESIDENT FOR AMBASSADOR (OR CHARGE) REPRESENTATIVE OF GOOD AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DECORATION WOULD BE INVALUABLE ASSET. AT PRESENT ALL HOUSING ON SHORT TERM LEASES. FOR ECONOMY REASONS, US SHOULD IN ADDITION TO BUILDING RESIDENCE PURCHASE AT LEAST ONE HOUSE. HOUSE NOW ASSIGNED TO CHARGE IS AVAILABLE, REASONABLE, AND SUITABLE AS NUMBER TWO RESIDENCE, BUT FBO IS NOT INTERESTED.

C. MANAGEMENT:

EMBASSY'S BARE-BONES STAFF DOES NOT PERMIT FURTHER STREAMLINING. AS FOR REGIONALIZATION, WE ALREADY DEPEND ALMOST ENTIRELY UPON BANGKOK AND WELLINGTON FOR BUDGET AND FISCAL SUPPORT. HALL

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